

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:UNGA PFOR GH US

SUBJECT:EASUM DISCUSSION AT UNGA WITH GHANA PERMREP BOATEN

1. HAVING BEEN UNABLE TO MEET WITH FONMIN BAAH, DURING BAAH'S BRIEF STAY IN NEW YORK, ASST SECY EASUM RESPONDED TO AMB BOATEN'S REQUEST FOR CONVERSATION AT UNGA NEW YORK APRIL 17. BOATEN'S MESSAGE CENTERED ON STATE OF US RELATIONS WITH AFRICA, SAYING SPECIFICALLY THAT AFRICANS BELIEVE US HAS LOST INTEREST IN THEM AND WOULD LIKE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH US.

2. CHARACTERIZING SPECIAL GA, BOATEN SAID HE FELT RESULTS HAD NOT YET BEEN VERY GREAT BUT THAT SESSION WAS A GOOD BEGINNING ON PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLD. HE SAID THE PROBLEM OF ESTABLISHING A BASIC AND FAIR PRICE FOR COMMODITIES INVOLVED MUCH MORE THAN THE PRICE FOR OIL. EVEN SO, HE SAID GHANA'S FUEL BILL WILL BE QUADRUPLD AND WILL WIPE OUT ALL THEIR FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAINS FROM COCOA PRICE INCREASE. HE MADE STRONG PITCH FOR US SUPPORT FOR COMMODITY AGREE-
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MENTS. HE HOPED CURRENT SESSION WOULD HAVE SOME EFFECT ON

US ATTITUDE IN THIS REGARD. HE THOUGHT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH WAS FORTHRIGHT AND POSITIVE AND THAT IT APPEARED TO BE A DEPARTURE FROM US POSITION TAKEN AT 28TH

GA, GHANA WAS WAITING, HOWEVER, TO SEE HOW US POLICY WOULD DEVELOP.

3. BOATEN SAID HE AND MOST AFRICANS BELIEVE US INTEREST IN AFRICA HAS DIMINISHED. THE CHANGE HAD BECOME MOST NOTICEABLE SINCE PRESIDENT NIXON'S RE-ELECTION BUT EVEN FIRST FOUR YEARS OF ADMINISTRATION HAD DEMONSTRATED LESS ATTENTION TO AFRICA THAN KENNEDY/JOHNSON ADMINISTRATIONS. EASUM ASKED FOR EXAMPLES. BOATEN CITED US POSITION ON RHODESIAN CHROME, PLUS FACT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER DID NOT CONSULT ANY AFRICAN AMBASSADORS DURING TIME BEFORE HE WAS SWORN IN AS SECRETARY AND SEEMED TO HAVE NO TIME FOR AFRICAN AMBASSADORS SINCE. EASUM REPLIED THAT ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT AND SUCCESS ALREADY IN SENATE SURELY INDICATED STRONG US COMMITMENT TO AFRICA. AS FOR QUESTION OF SECRETARY'S ATTENTION TO AFRICA, EASUM SUGGESTED SECRETARY'S SPEECH CONTAINED AMPLE EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE US NOW ATTACHING TO PROBLEMS OF LDCS. FURTHERMORE, SECRETARY'S CONCENTRATION ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM CERTAINLY SERVED AFRICAN OBJECTIVES FOR PEACE IN THE AREA.

4. BOATEN SAID THAT IF UN IS TO BE STRENGTHENED, ITS MEMBERS MUST UPHOLD THOSE OBLIGATIONS THEY UNDERTAKE AND THAT IF NATIONAL LEGISLATURES ARE TO BE ALLOWED A UN ROLE, THE ORGANIZATION WILL DISSOLVE INTO CHAOS. ILLUSTRATING WHAT HE CALLED A MORE MATURE AFRICAN ROLE AT UN, BOATEN POINTED OUT THAT SPEECHES NOW USE LESS FREQUENTLY WORDS SUCH AS "IMPERIALISM", "COLONIALISM" ETC. WALKER INTERJECTED EXPLANATION OF US PROBLEM WITH WORDING OF SOME RESOLUTIONS WHICH, IF ALTERED ONLY SLIGHTLY, COULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND RECEIVE US SUPPORT.

5. BOATEN SAID THAT AFRICANS BELIEVE US IS TOTALLY AGAINST THEM ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES AND THEREFORE THEY DO NOT SEE THEIR WAY CLEAR TO SUPPORT US ON OTHER QUESTIONS.
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EASUM REITERATED US POLICIES, STATING IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT US WAS NOT OMNISCIENT, COULD NOT BE WORLD'S POLICEMAN, AND LOOKED TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO DESIGN AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS. BOATEN SAID US SHOULD PLAY MUCH MORE POSITIVE ROLE REGARDING LIBERATION OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES SINCE THE US HAD MORE LEVERAGE ON PORTUGAL THAN ANYONE ELSE BY VIRTUE OF US ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. ARMS SUPPLIED TO PORTUGAL BY THE US IN THE

NATO CONTEXT ENABLED PORTUGAL TO USE EQUIVALENT SUMS
FOR ARMS TO BE USED IN AFRICA. EASUM EXPLAINED LIMITAT-
TIONS OF US LEVERAGE ON PORTUGAL AND WALKER CITED

RELATIVE INSIGNIFICANCE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE. RUSH

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